THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Schemes for full coverage of not covered (NC) and partially covered (PC) habitations in rural areas are approved by the States under powers delegated to them. Central assistance of Rs. 9958.71 lakhs and Rs. 5703.60 lakh has been released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat respectively under the Accelerated Water Supply Programme during 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far.

The information in regard to the proposal for Urban Areas is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Teachers

5751. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Shikshakon Ki niyukti ki prakriya sandehaspad", appearing in the 'Jansatta' Delhi edition dated, March 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The News item refers to issues such as recruitment of Post Graduate Teachers centrally and cut off marks for different regions, etc.

(c) Recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya is made in accordance with rules and procedure prescribed for the purpose.

[English]

Incentives for Small Family

5752. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to give incentives to Government employees observing two children norm; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) A set of incentives, as follows, is already in operation for Central Government employees (within the specified age limits) having one, two or three children, who or their spouse undergoes sterilisation :-

(i) Special increment in the form of personal pay not to be absorbed in future increases of pay;

(ii) ½% rebate in rate of interest on House Building Advance; and

(iii) Special Casual Leave for undergoing sterilisation/ IUD insertion.

Institute for Inland Water Transport

5753. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to setup a Training Institute for personnel working in the field of Inland Water Transport in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details with locations thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up one training Institute at Thevara (Kochi) for training of personnel working in IWT sector received from Government of Kerala is under consideration.

World Bank AID

5754. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of World Bank aid Rs. 313.71 crore sodic land reclamation Pilot Project in U.P. is very tardy as on day;

(b) while it is also a fact that this slow progress of the sodic land reclamation project has blocked World Bank aid for another comprehensive project in U.P.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps being taken to step up progress of the Pilot Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Upto December, 1996, an area of 20,603 hectares has been reclaimed against a

target of 15,000 hectares, which is higher than the target fixed for the purpose.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Joint Ventures for Road Projects

5755. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any private parties have approached the Government for forming Joint Ventures to road projects in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of States where such projects have been indentified;

(d) the amount of total investment estimated for the projects and the share of contribution of each of them; and

(e) whether the Government propose to give any sops for private participation ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, such proposal for Joint Venture with Government is under consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) To attract Private Sector, various fiscal concessions have been announced including liberalisation of ECB procedure and automatic approval to foreign equity participation upto 74%.

State Social Welfare Advisory Boards

5756. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum dated December 19, 1996 had been received from All India Federation of Social Welfare Employees Association, P.O. Bandwan, District Purulia, West Bengal regarding various problems, grievances and demands of employees of different cadres working in both Central as well as State Social Welfare Advisory Boards; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No final decision regarding the status of the State boards has been taken. Amalgamation of State Boards with respective Department and other issues cited in the Memorandum is linked to the status of State Boards.

AIDS

5757. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding rising incidence of HIV and AIDS in the States of Manipur, Aurnachal Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check its spread ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have been included in the surveillance activity, for HIV infection. As of March, 1997 the details of HIV positive and AIDS cases are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of State	HIV Positive	AIDS cases
1.	Manipur	3843	232
2.	Meghalaya	57	Nil
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil

(c) In order to prevent and control spread of HIV/AIDS in India a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the Programme consist of creation of awareness among high risk behaviour group and general public about HIV/AIDS, Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Blood Safety and rational use of blood, strengthen the surveilliance and diagnosis and clinical management of HIV/AIDS cases.

[Translation]

Expansion/Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

5758. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of national highways in Gujarat on which widening/expansion and maintenance work has been undertaken since February 1997 till date and the time by which this work is likely to be started on the rest of the national highways passing through Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the estimated cost involved therein and the actual expenditure there incurred thereon so far?